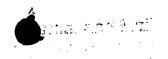
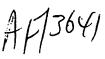


5







IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Spplicant:

Smith et al.

Serial No:

09/976,389

Filed: For:

October 12, 2001

LAUNCHER PLATFORM

Group:

3641

Examiner:

Chambers, Troy

Docket No:

RAY-120J

Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 6 2003.

Olga Kadish

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116 - EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - GROUP 3641

This Response is in reply to the Final Office Action mailed March 6, 2003 in the subject application. In response to the Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

AMENDMENT B

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-39.

Please add new claims 40-74 as follows.

RECEIVED

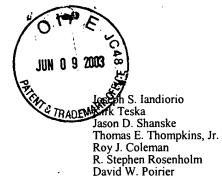
JUN 1 1 2003

GROUP 3600

40. A launcher platform comprising:

a support structure structured and arranged to be elevated and rotated and including a top plate; and

a plurality of rails mounted on the support structure for supporting missiles thereon, including selected rails elevated above the other rails to accommodate additional



IANDIORIO & TESKA

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW ATTORNEYS

260 BEAR HILL ROAD WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02451-1018 Tel: (781) 890-5678 Fax: (781) 890-1150 e-mail: admin@iandiorio.com web: www.iandiorio.com

June 6, 2003

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 RECEIVED
JUN 1 1 2003

GROUP 3600

SUBJECT:

Applicant:

Smith et al.

Serial No:

09/976,389

Filed:

October 12, 2001

For:

LAUNCHER PLATFORM

Examiner:

Chambers, Troy

Group:

3641

Docket No:

RAY-120J

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a RESPONSE in reply to the Final Office Action mailed March 6, 2003 in the subject application.

If for any reason this RESPONSE is found to be INCOMPLETE, or if at any time it appears that a TELEPHONE CONFERENCE with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts at (781) 890-5678.

If any payment during prosecution is found to be incorrect, please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to my Deposit Account No. 09-0002. A copy of this letter is enclosed for use by the Finance Branch in the event that it is necessary to make any charge or credit to my deposit account.

In addition, pursuant to Rule 1.136(a)(3), the Office is hereby authorized to treat any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefor. Also, any request or Petition for an Extension of Time notwithstanding an inadvertent reference in the Petition to a shorter period of time is to be treated as requesting the appropriate length of time.

Commissioner for Patents Page 2

Kindly acknowledge receipt of the foregoing by returning the enclosed self-addressed postcard.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Thompkins, Jr.

Reg. No. 47,136

TET:ok Enclosures

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Olga Kadish